

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL BICYCLE TASK FORCE

Tuesday, December 15, 1998
MAG Office Building, Suite 200 - Ocotillo Conference Room
302 North First Avenue, Phoenix

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Patrick McDermott, Chandler, Chairman	Steve Hancock, Mesa
Mark Mansfield, ADOT	Tracy Stevens, Peoria
Christopher Miller, Gilbert	John Siefert, Phoenix
Susan Bookspan, Glendale	Maureen Mageau-DeCindis, RPTA
*Larry Martinez, Goodyear	Amy MacAulay, Scottsdale
Mike Cartsonis, Litchfield Park	*Eric Iwersen, Tempe
*Aaron Iverson, Maricopa County	

*Members neither present nor represented by proxy.

OTHERS PRESENT

Dawn Coomer, MAG
John Farry, MAG

1. Call to Order

Chairman Patrick McDermott called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m.

2. Approval of the November 17, 1998 Meeting Minutes

Steve Hancock moved to approve the meeting minutes from November 17, 1998. Susan Bookspan seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Call to the Audience

There were no members of the audience present to address the Task Force.

4. Status Report on FYs 1999, 2000 and 2001 Federally Funded Bicycle Projects

Dawn Coomer addressed the Task Force to provide an update on the status of Federally funded bicycle projects. She noted that only the status of the Mesa bicycle project had changed, and requested that other changes to the information in Attachment One be submitted.

John Siefert explained that the multi-purpose tunnel at 19th Avenue and the Arizona Canal had been estimated at an amount higher than programmed. He asked how he could obtain additional CMAQ funds for the project, and mentioned that the project was funded for FY 98-99. John Farry responded that increases due to “scope creep” were the responsibility of the jurisdiction, and suggested that Paul Ward might be able to provide assistance.

The committee discussed possible answers to the question, and ways to address the concern about “scope creep.” John Siefert noted that the increase in scope could not be legitimately considered “scope creep.” Instead, the issue was an estimate higher than originally expected and unanticipated expenses.

5. Staff Report

Dawn Coomer addressed the committee to provide a status report on several transportation items. First, she noted that guidelines for the selection of transportation projects had recently been approved by the Regional Council, and distributed the guidelines to the Task Force. She added that many of the guidelines were very general. Dawn also reminded the committee that projects submitted for Federal transportation funds are due by December 24, 1998. She noted that projects could be submitted on-line, but that a password would have to be established before inputting data. Paul Ward could assist with establishing a password. In addition, a form is available for those without internet access.

In addition, all other projects requiring inclusion in the TIP are due by January 26, 1999. Some members of the committee were concerned about the deadline, and Dawn reminded the committee that this deadline had been mentioned earlier and was no different than previous years.

Maureen Mageau-DeCindis asked how she could submit a regional bicycle education and safety program. Dawn noted that CMAQ could be used for this purpose, and that the form would not be helpful for this type of project. Maureen mentioned that she would call Paul Ward to obtain more information about the requirements of the project submittal.

Dawn noted that the changes recommended to the Congestion Management System had been approved by the Transportation Review Committee, and were awaiting Regional Council approval. In addition, data from the Enhanced Early Phase Input Opportunity had been compiled. Committee members discussed the enhanced process, including the results of the focus groups and the Regional Transportation Stakeholders Meeting.

6. Bicycle Plan Update

Dawn Coomer addressed the committee, noting that all working papers for the Bicycle Plan Update had been completed. She added that the papers needed to be compiled into a plan update for inclusion in the March, 1999 update of the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). In order to be included in the LRTP, the Task Force would have to approve a bike plan update at the January, 1999 meeting.

Dawn distributed a draft table of contents of the final bike plan update to committee members. She asked if the bicycle ordinance review should be included, and if the work done by Paul Ward had been approved

by the committee. Maureen Mageau-DeCindis explained that the previous work had not yet been approved by the committee, but that it could be updated before next month. Dawn reminded the Task Force of the January approval deadline, and Maureen added that she could meet to discuss the chapter. Amy MacAulay noted that Scottsdale had a new path ordinance, and Steve Hancock suggested incorporating the ordinance review as a separate document. The committee discussed this idea, and some were concerned about the separate document. Dawn noted that some future activities, which would be discussed under the next agenda item, might blend well with a separate document. Steve added that an addendum could be produced. Maureen suggested that Dawn and she review the ordinance chapter and determine if it could be ready for the January deadline. If not, then the ordinance review could be incorporated into future planning efforts. The committee generally agreed to this approach.

Steve asked for clarification of the recommended action plan, and Dawn responded that this section was included as part of Working Paper Three. Mike Cartsonis asked how community design concerns and replacing short auto trips with bicycling was addressed. Dawn noted that this could be discussed as part of developing design guidelines, and Amy MacAulay added that these concerns were addressed in the updated goals and objects.

7. Future Activities

The discussion of the update of the Regional Bicycle Plan continued with Dawn Coomer mentioning some planning activities which had been deferred until other portions of the MAG Regional Bicycle Plan could be updated. These activities included creating regional design guidelines for bicycle facilities and updating the bicycle ordinance review. Susan Bookspan said that the purpose of the ordinance review was to provide a model ordinance to member jurisdictions. Dawn asked which ideas should be considered for future planning.

Steve Hancock noted that funds provided under the Transportation and Community and System Preservation Pilot Program could be used to develop a region-wide off-street/multi-use path plan. The plan could include opportunities for use and possible funding mechanisms. The committee discussed this idea and generally agreed it was worth investigating.

Steve also suggested using funds for public education announcements on television during peak times. John Farry added that CMAQ funding is doubling under TEA-21, and Patrick McDermott noted that an understanding of the significance of this increase needed to be understood by the committee.

Chris Miller asked how the planning of paths by the Flood Control District was incorporated into the plan update. Steve added that the Bureau of Reclamation also does planning of this sort, and provides funding for off-street facilities. The committee asked if representatives from these agencies could attend Task Force meetings and provide updates of their planning activities.

John Farry suggested that the February meeting be used to discuss these ideas and develop possible work plans. Mike Cartsonis asked for some discussion on how the transportation project guidelines were developed, and the committee discussed these ideas.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, January 19, 1999 at 1:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 1:53 p.m.